

Senate Bill No. 419

CHAPTER 183

An act to amend Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

[Approved by Governor October 11, 2009. Filed with
Secretary of State October 11, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 419, Committee on Veterans Affairs. County veteran service officers: funding.

Existing law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veteran service officer, and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veteran service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions. Existing law finds and declares that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately \$5,000,000, and that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

This bill would make changes to those findings and declarations by declaring that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately \$11,000,000. This provision would become operative only if SB 418 of the 2009–10 Regular Session of the Legislature is chaptered.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 138 of the Statutes of 2004, is amended to read:

972.1. (a) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation, during the 1989–90 fiscal year, for purposes of funding the activities of county veteran service officers pursuant to this section. Funds for allocation in future years shall be as provided in the annual Budget Act.

(b) Funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year on a pro rata basis to counties that have established and maintain a county veteran service officer in accordance with the staffing level and workload of each county veteran

service officer under a formula based upon performance that shall be developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for these purposes.

(c) The department shall annually determine the amount of new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the federal government attributable to the assistance of county veteran service officers. The department shall, on or before January 1 of each year, prepare and transmit its determination for the preceding fiscal year to the Department of Finance and the Legislature. The Department of Finance shall review the department's determination in time to use the information in the annual Budget Act for the budget of the department for the next fiscal year.

(d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000). The Legislature further finds and declares that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the effort of these officers.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature, after reviewing the department's determination in subdivision (c), to consider an increase in the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the assistance of county veteran service officers justify that increase in the budget.

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 972.1 of the Military and Veterans Code, as amended by Section 146 of Chapter 22 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

972.1. (a) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allocation, during the 1989–90 fiscal year, for purposes of funding the activities of county veteran service officers pursuant to this section. Funds for allocation in future years shall be as provided in the annual Budget Act.

(b) Funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year on a pro rata basis to counties that have established and maintain a county veteran service officer in accordance with the staffing level and workload of each county veteran service officer under a formula based upon performance that shall be developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for these purposes, and that shall allocate county funds in any fiscal year for county veteran service officers in an amount not less than the amount allocated in the 1988–89 fiscal year.

(c) The department shall annually determine the amount of new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the federal government attributable to the assistance of county veteran service officers. The department shall, on or before January 1 of each year, prepare and transmit its determination for the preceding fiscal year to the Department of Finance and the Legislature. The Department of Finance shall review the

department's determination in time to use the information in the annual Budget Act for the budget of the department for the next fiscal year.

(d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that 50 percent of the amount annually budgeted for county veteran service officers is approximately eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000). The Legislature further finds and declares that it is an efficient and reasonable use of state funds to increase the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) if it is justified by the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the effort of these officers.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature, after reviewing the department's determination in subdivision (c), to consider an increase in the annual budget for county veteran service officers in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if the monetary benefits to the state's veterans attributable to the assistance of county veteran service officers justify that increase in the budget.

(e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2016.

SEC. 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this bill shall become operative only if Senate Bill 418 of the 2009–10 Regular Session of the Legislature is chaptered.